

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1459

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SUBJ: TECHNICAL SURVEY TEAM REPORT - EMBASSY REVISIONS

REF: (A) NASSAU 1451; (B) STATE 196535

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES SURVEY TEAM REPORT IN GENERAL IS EXCELLENT JOB, SHOWING OUTSTANDING GRASP AND ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS AND MAKING SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS. CAPTAIN MUMMA AND DRAFTING TEAM DESERVE CONGRATULATIONS FOR THIER JOB.

2. FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES IN REPORT (SANITIZED VERSION) WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES ESSENTIAL BEFORE REPORT IS GIVEN TO GCOB. REFERENCES THROUGHOUT ARE TO THE SANITIZED VERSION PROVIDED EMBASSY OCTOBER 1:

A. INTRODUCTION, PAGE II, FIRST SENTENCE -- OMIT "OR PROTECTION OF US MILITARY FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE BAHAMAS."
RATIONALE: THIS FACTOR WAS NEVER RAISED WITH GCOB, PROBABLY NEVER OCCURRED TO THEM, AND COULD BE USED AS RED HERRING.

B. CHAPTER I (THE BAHAMAS -- GENERAL BACKGROUND) -- OMIT ENTIRE CHAPTER. RATIONALE: THIS CHAPTER WAS DESIGNED TO BE OF POSSIBLE USE TO USG, NOT GCOB; INFORMATION CONTAINED
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THEREIN IS OF NO USE OR INTEREST TO GCOB; CHAPTER CONTAINS

STATEMENTS WHICH GCOB COULD FIND OFFENSIVE. NOTE: IT IS DECIDED TO RETAIN THIS CHAPTER, EMBASSY WILL HAVE AT LEAST A DOZEN SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO PROPOSE THEREIN.

C. CHAPTER II (COASTAL SURVEILLANCE): TOP OF PAGE 17 -- OMIT CLAUSE BEGINNING "THERE IS" AND ENDING "OR RELATIVE" AND SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING: "THERE IS CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY PRESSURE AGAINST JOINING THE FORCE". RATIONALE: UNREVISED CLAUSE MAY SUGGEST THAT EVERY BAHAMIAN FAMILY INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE CROOK.

D. IBID, PAGE 25, FIRST SENTENCE -- OMIT FIRST PHRASE BEGINNING "IN VIEW OF" AND ENDING "POLICE FORCE". RATIONALE: SECOND PHRASE OF SENTENCE DOES NOT CLEARLY FLOW FROM FIRST; FIRST PHRASE MAKES ASSUMPTION WHICH IS NOT DISCUSSED IN REPORT, WHICH MAY TURN OUT TO BE UNWARRANTED; DESIRABILITY OF REORGANIZATION REMAINS EVEN IF POLICE FORCE DOES NOT EXPAND.

E. IBID, PAGE 35 -- OMIT FIRST SENTENCE BEGINNING "DURING DISCUSSIONS" AND ENDING "DIVISION." FOLLOWING SENTENCE SHOULD BEGIN "IT IS UNDERSTOOD". RATIONALE: REMOVE PERSONAL REFERENCE TO AITKEN AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DIVULGE.

F. IBID, PAGES 37, 38, "TRAINING" -- (1) OMIT SECOND SENTENCE BEGINNING "AS MENTIONED", SUBSTITUTE "IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE BAHAMAS DO NOT PRESENTLY HAVE A HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL BASE"; (2) IN FOLLOWING SENTENCE BEGINNING "LITTLE" OMIT WORDS "IF ANY"; (3) OMIT SUCCEEDING SENTENCE BEGINNING "MR. BAIN"; (4) IN FIRST FULL SENTENCE, TOP OF PAGE 38, OMIT WORD "HE" AND INSERT WORDS "IT HAS BEEN". RATIONALE: (1) AND (2), DECREASE POSSIBLE OFFENSIVENESS; (3) AND (4), REMOVE PERSONAL REFERENCE TO BAIN AND HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF "DEFICIENCIES".

G. CHAPTER III (SEARCH AND RESCUE), PAGE 40 -- OMIT FIRST SENTENCE AT TOP OF PAGE AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING "FOR MANY YEARS, THE US HAD ALMOST THE ENTIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BAHAMAS". RATIONALE: UNREVISED SENTENCE IS UNCLEAR AND OVERSTATED.

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H. IBID, SECOND PARAGRAPH, BEGINNING "AT PRESENT" -- OMIT ENTIRE PARAGRAPH, CONTINUING OVER TO PAGE 41 AND CONCLUDING WITH WORDS "WERE AMERICANS". RATIONALE: ENTIRE PARAGRAPH IS ARGUMENTATIVE AND OVERLY DETAILED IN AREA BETTER LEFT ALONE. OMIT NEXT SENTENCE BEGINNING "UNTIL". FOLLOWING SENTENCE BEGINNING "AT THAT TIME", SHOULD BE REVISED TO READ "TEN YEARS AGO, A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION", ETC. RATIONALE: CLARITY AND AVOIDANCE OF REPETITION.

I. IBID, PAGE 42, SECOND FULL PARAGRAPH -- OMIT SENTENCE BEGINNING "THESE STATISTICS" AND ENDING "SMALL AIRCRAFT."
RATIONALE: UNREVISED SENTENCE TOO PEREMPTORY IN TELLING GCOB WHAT IT MUST DO AND WHAT ITS MOST VALUABLE ASSET IS.

J. ENCLOSURE (1), "REPORT OF MEETING WITH MR. R. E. BAIN"
-- OMIT ENTIRE ENCLOSURE (FOUR PAGES). RATIONALE: THIS IS ONLY MEMORANDUM OF ANY MEETING, IT IDENTIFIES BAIN TOO CLOSELY WITH TEAM'S WORK, AND CONTAINS STATEMENTS WHICH GCOB MIGHT FIND PREJUDICIAL (AT VERY LEAST, RELEASE OF THIS MEMORANDUM TO GCOB WOULD BE IMPROPER WITHOUT BAIN'S CLEARANCE). NOTE: OMIT REFERENCE ON PAGE IV TO ENCLOSURE (1).

K. ENCLOSURE (2), "PEOPLE INTERVIEWED" -- BAIN'S CORRECT TITLE IS "SECRETARY TO CABINET", AND RUSSELL IS "PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS". RE PERSON NUMBER FOUR, WHY IS "CAPTAIN" IN QUOTES?

3. EMBASSY FINDS OTHER MINOR POINTS WHICH COULD BE CORRECTED BUT WHICH WOULD UNNECESSARILY DELAY SUBMISSION OF TEAM'S REPORT TO GCOB. POINTS STATED ABOVE CONSTITUTE, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ESSENTIAL MINIMUM OF REVISIONS. ASSUME NECESSARY REVISIONS OF TABLE OF CONTENTS, NUMBERING OF ENCLOSURES, PAGINATION, ETC. WILL BE MADE.
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